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THE WAR.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS

(Reuter's Service to the [China Mail].)

DEBATE IN REICHSTAG.

DR. KUEHLHANN'S EXPECTATIONS.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 28.

The debate in the Reichstag continued on Saturday.

The speakers, as on the previous day, were generally critical; even the pan-Germans did not venture to air violent annexationist views.

The Socialist, Herr David, and the Progressive, Herr Naumann, demanded a definite pronouncement on the subject of Belgium; the serious consideration of President Wilson's peace proposals; the repudiation of undisciplined advocates of conquest like Admiral von Tirpitz and the Fatherland Party and better guarantees for the right of self-determination by border peoples.

Dr. von Kuehlmann, replying, promised to do his best to broaden the representative bodies of the occupied territories and said as a result of that debate he would resume the difficult negotiations at Brest-Litovsk with the increased certainty that they would result in an honourable peace.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

RENEWED ACTIVITY.

SEVERE FIGHTING NORTH OF YPRES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.

The War Secretary's weekly review speaks of renewed activity on the Western Front, including the region bordering on the North Sea where there has been severe fighting.

A carefully co-ordinated British operation in concert with land batteries in the area north of Ypres subjected the German defences of Ostend and the surrounding country to a severe bombardment. The British did not attempt an infantry action.

The Secretary for War mentions the attack upon the French at Neuport, called on the 28th inst., and says it was more than a simple raid, being a sharp reaction to the British attack before mentioned.

Referring to Italy the Review expresses the opinion that the enemy has temporarily abandoned the attempt to reach the plains. The Secretary for War thinks the Austrians are planning to shift the attack further west.

The Review concludes by saying that the general strike at Vienna and other upheavals against the Monarchy will inevitably react on the general situation.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

LONDON, Jan. 28.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—

The enemy raided our advanced posts north-east of Langemark. Three of our men are missing.

We dispersed strong hostile reconnoitring to the south-east of Evergule.

Hostile artillery is active on the south-west of Cambrai, northward of Lens and in the Passchendaele sector.

FRENCH RAIDS ON ENEMY LINES.

LONDON, Jan. 28.

A French communiqué states:—

We made various successful raids on the enemy's lines in Champagne and north of St. Mihiel, bringing back prisoners.

NAVAL AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY.

LONDON, Jan. 28.

The Admiralty reports: Our Naval aircraft bombed Aertrike aerodromes and Engel dump. The clouds rendered observation of results difficult. All our machines returned.

BRITISH AIR RAID ON MANNHEIM.

LONDON, Jan. 28.

A telegram from Geneva says that travellers from Mannheim state that the British air raid on January 24 caused a tremendous panic. The people rushed into the streets, half clothed, and an angry crowd, after the departure of the raiders, collected, shouting for peace.

MORE FOOD RIOTS IN AUSTRIA.

ZURICH, Jan. 28.

A message from Vienna states that 3,000 persons demonstrated at Prague against a reduction of the flour ration by one-half. They smashed shop windows and looted goods. The police dispersed the rioters with difficulty. All the restaurants' lack potatoes, vegetables and flour.

(Continued on Page 5.)

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

A CUNARD LINER
TORPEDOED.PASSENGERS AND CREW SAVED
WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS.

London, Jan. 28.

The Cunard Company's s.s. *Andania*, outward bound, with 40 passengers and 200 crew, was torpedoed off the coast of Ulster. All those aboard took to the boats and were picked up after an hour. It is hoped to bring the liner into port.

LATER.

The survivors of the *Andania* who were landed on the coast of Antrim by patrol ships state that the ship was torpedoed amidst ships on the starboard side at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, at a moment when boat-drill was about to be held. The explosion killed four stokers and the vessel developed a bad list to starboard, which made the launching of boats very difficult. The survivors include women and babies.

SPANISH CREW ROBBED BY
GERMAN PIRATES.

London, Jan. 28.

There is great indignation in Spain over the torpedoing of the Spanish steamer *Alcala* on the 28th inst., 80 miles west of La Guardia. The men on the submarine robbed the crew, who were subsequently picked up and landed at Vigo.

THE BOLSHEVİK VIEW OF
PETROGRAD'S DESTINY.THE ANNEXATIONIST AIMS OF
GERMANY AND THEIR
OUTCOME.

London, Jan. 27.

Mr. Williams, the Press Correspondent, telegraphing from Petrograd, states that the Bolshevik newspapers admit that the Brest-Litovsk negotiations have exposed the German Government's intention to annex the western provinces of Russia. They claim that the knowledge of that fact is due to the Bolshevik efforts, and explain that it does not matter if General Hoffman carries out his threat to seize Reval, as it will merely expose to the German Army and to the German people the annexationist aims of their Government and lead to the overthrow of the existing Berlin régime.

Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks are dallying with a scheme for resisting a German advance by creating a highly paid volunteer army to engage in a Holy War with all imperialist nations and are also waiting to see the red flag raised in Austria.

They believe that Petrograd is destined to become the Capital of a Federation of Soviet Republics.

SPLIT AMONG THE BOLSHEVİKS.

London, Jan. 28.

The *Daily News* Petrograd Correspondent states that a split has occurred among the Bolsheviks. The minority consider that Russia's weakness and isolation compel her to negotiate for a separate peace, while the majority, with the Left Social Revolutionaries are prepared to take up Germany's challenge and to enter into a period of revolutionary defence. The ultimate decision lies with M. Trotsky.

A "RELENTLESS STRUGGLE"
WITH THE UKRAINIAN
RAIDA.

Petrograd, Jan. 28.

The Government announces that it will not further negotiate with the Ukrainian Rada and states: "The only possible course is a relentless struggle with the Rada until the Ukrainian Soviets are completely victorious."

The newspapers state that the Ukrainians and the Bolsheviks are both mobilising and a general engagement may be expected in a few days, near Kiev.

NO TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS
WITH PETROGRAD.

Stockholm, Jan. 28.

Telegraphic communication with Petrograd has been interrupted since Sunday morning. It is reported that the Red Guards cut the lines.

HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN
BOLSHEVİKS AND
UKRAINIANS.

Amsterdam, Jan. 29.

A telegram from Vienna states that there has been heavy fighting for several days between the Ukrainian and Bolshevik troops at Luck, which the Ukrainians are endeavouring to capture.

The Bolshevik Commander asked for assistance from the Austro-Hungarian Commander of the district, who refused to give it.

COMPLETE ANARCHY IN FINLAND.

Stockholm, Jan. 28.

The whole of Finland is telegraphically isolated, and complete anarchy reigns in Finland.

ITALIAN PREMIER IN
LONDON.

London, Jan. 28.

The Italian Premier, interviewed in London, said that the result of his conferences with Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour and Lord Robert Cecil was most satisfactory. They were agreed in all essential political matters both as to principle and method. Certain Italian papers had expressed disappointment with Mr. Lloyd George's references to Austria, but there was not a shadow of misunderstanding between the British and Italian Governments.

Signor Orlando, in paying a tribute to the British troops in Italy, mentioned that a British Ambulance had saved his wounded son on the Piave and also that the presence of the Prince of Wales on the Italian Front had profoundly impressed the Italians.

Signor Orlando confessed that he had misgivings after the disaster at Caporetto, but the heroism of the Italian troops and the co-operation by the British and the French, had restored the equilibrium.

Signor Orlando predicted that the next enemy offensive would be again on the Italian Front.

SUBMARINES RECALLED TO REFIT.
MORE POWERFUL SUBMARINE
OFFENSIVE EXPECTED.

Washington, Jan. 28.

Mr. Baker, the Secretary of War, in his weekly review says: "As the time approaches when the enemy will endeavour to strike a decisive blow in the West, it may be emphasised that he will not content himself with a mere military operation on a large scale. During the past fortnight, the enemy submarines have been recalled to a home port to be refitted and the most powerful submarine offensive, so far undertaken, will be launched against the lines of communication with France in order to interrupt the steady flow of men and munitions for our armies and food supplies for our Allies."

EXTENSIVE ARAB RAIDS.

London, Jan. 28.

The War Office announces that the Arabs, during the past ten days, have made extensive raids and destroyed the telegraph line and several miles of the Hedjaz railway track, to the north-west of Medina. They also attacked posts to the south of Mecca, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and destroying buildings, water tanks and an ammunition dump.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

FIGHTING IN THE DARDANELLES.

London, Jan. 27.

A Turkish official message received by wireless states: "There was lively aerial activity at the Dardanelles. Land fire compelled two enemy warships and a mine-sweeper to retreat. The last named was hit three times."

TURKS CLAIM ADVANCE IN
PALESTINE.

London, Jan. 27.

A Turkish communiqué reports: "We rectified our lines in Palestine, advancing them two kilometres."

COMPENSATION PAID TO
HOLLAND.

London, Jan. 27.

Mr. Hughes has announced that Great Britain has paid 97,976 guilders compensation for material damage caused in the bombing of Geertruida Zee on April 29, by British aeroplanes.

THE CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA.
FIGHTING AT VIBORG.

Petrograd, Jan. 27.

The fighting between the Red Guards and White Guards has become intensified at Viborg. The White Guards are drawn from the educated classes and former soldiers.

FINNISH SENATE BROKEN UP.

The sitting of the Finnish Senate which sent the ultimatum to Russia regarding the excesses of soldiers was broken up by Socialists, supported by the Fleet.

CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY.

A telegram from Odessa states that a Military Revolutionary Committee has been formed and announced its intention of confiscating the property of the rich, also the deposits at the Banks and in private safes, for the benefit of the unemployed.

THE UKRAINIAN SPLIT.

An official telegram from Brest-Litovsk states that the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviets have established at Kharkoff a rival Ukrainian Rada to that established at Kiev. They have informed the Bolshevik representatives that the Rada does not represent the Ukrainian people, but only the Governments of Kiev, Tchernikov and part of Kursk, whereas the Soviets control Kharkoff, Ekaterinoslav, and the Kherson basin from Donets to the Black Sea, and it is impossible for the Rada to supply anyone with wheat, because the Soviets control the wheat-growing governments and means of communication. Representatives of the Soviets will confer in the peace negotiations as part of the Russian delegation, and repudiate the treachery of the Rada in attempting to make separate peace with the Central Powers. The President of the Russian delegation replied agreeing to discuss a common peace with the Ukraine Soviets as part of the Russian delegation.

UKRAINE PROCLAIMED AN
INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC.

Petrograd, Jan. 27.

The Ukrainian Rada, by 208 votes to 4, has proclaimed the complete independence of the Ukrainian Republic. It declares that it wishes for friendship with Rumania, Turkey and other neighbouring Powers. It will support no war but desires the Ukrainian people's peace as soon as possible.

SERIOUS FIGHTING BETWEEN
RUSSIANS AND RUMANIANS.

Petrograd, Jan. 27.

Serious fighting is reported from Brest-Litovsk between Russians and Rumanians on January 20 in the vicinity of Galatz. The Ninth and the Tenth Siberian Divisions attempted to break through in order to regain Russian territory, from where they were cut off by the Rumanians. Heavy artillery, also monitors on the Danube, were engaged. The attempts, so far, have failed. The fighting continues.

KUEHLMANN AND CZERNIN
RETURN TO BRESLITOVSK.

Amsterdam, Jan. 27.

German papers announce that Count Czernin and Dr. Kuehlmann return to Breslitz to-day.

GERMAN SOCIALIST ON GERMAN
BOASTS.

Amsterdam, Jan. 27.

In a debate in the Reichstag, following Count von Hertling's speech, Herr Scheidemann, the Socialist member, said that their boasts in 1916 that the U-Boats would give victory in six months proved empty. The most visible effect of submarine had been the entry of America into the war. Now marvellous stories were being circulated about the coming great offensive; but supporting Paris and Calais were taken they would still have to fight America. General Hoffman's speech at Breslitz kindled the strike movement in Austria. Not a single cry had been heard in Vienna against the Austrian Emperor, but the Kaiser was openly insulted there. These pan-Germans would make Germany lose her last friend.

Herr Scheidemann warned the Government that if it did not rid itself of such patriots and did not secure peace with Russia it would be hurled from power, so serious was the feeling of the people at the prospect of new bloodshed in the spring.

KING SANCTIONS NEW HUNGARIAN
PROGRAMME.

London, Jan. 27.

A Budapest telegram states that the King has sanctioned the new Government programme, comprising the formation of a National Hungarian Army and the drawing up of a new Austro-Hungarian commercial treaty.

PRESIDENT WILSON URGES
ECONOMY.

Washington, Jan. 27.

WHEATLESS AND MEATLESS
DAYS.

President Wilson, in a proclamation, exhorts the greatest food economy in order to increase shipments overseas to the Allies, whose subsistence is largely dependent on the United States. He appeals for a reduction of thirty per cent. in the consumption of wheat and wheat products. Mondays and Wednesdays should be wheatless. Tuesdays should be meatless and one day should be portless. Continued economy in the use of sugar is urged till after the year.

THE SOCIETY OF ST.
GEORGE, HONGKONG.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

ANOTHER WAR BOND
DRAWING.

The first annual meeting of the Hongkong Society of St. George was held last evening in the Board Room of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. (by kind permission of the Company), for the purpose of electing officers and committee for the ensuing year and also to discuss the methods of celebrating the next St. George's Day.

There were present, Mr. Justice Gompertz (President), the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak (Vice-President), Mr. N. J. Stubb (Hon. Treasurer) and Messrs. G. S. Archbutt, C. Bewick, H. W. Bird, W. A. Dowley, H. W. Looker, M. S. Northcote and the Hon. Mr. E. B. Sharp, K.C. (Committee), Mr. J. Bentley (Hon. Sec.), and about 150 members of the Society.

After the Hon. Secretary had read the notice convening the meeting, the President said that the accounts for last year would be found at the back of the book of rules, a copy of which had been placed in the hands of each member present. They had started the new year with 109 old members and, the Hon. Secretary had told him that 42 new names had already been received. He would like other members of the Society to do their best to discover other names and get them to join the Society, because it would not doubt have very large calls upon it after the war. There had been only one case of relief during the past year. The man assisted was a soldier on the Reserve list. When war was declared he was called up and joined the Worcesters. He was very badly wounded and was invalided out of the Army. He had a brother in India, an old soldier, whom he wished to join. He was coming out to India via Canada, when he became seriously ill and had to enter a hospital in Canada. That exhausted all his available money. When he was discharged from hospital he came on to Hongkong, and appealed to the Society for help. A hundred dollars was awarded him and he was given a passage to his destination.

Continuing, the Chairman said the business of the meeting was to receive suggestions as to the celebration of St. George's Day. They had to elect a general committee and leave it to them to arrange what form the celebration should take. Last year they made about \$38,000, and were able to send a draft of \$4,000 to various war charities. Of that sum \$15,000 were obtained by the sale of badges; \$10,000 from the performances in the theatre and \$6,000 from the fair. It was a question for the committee to decide whether a fair should be held this year or not, because \$6,000 was not a large proportion of the whole amount. They all knew that Kowloon had held a fair similar to that on "Our Day" and had realised \$12,000. Then the St. Andrew's Fair, which was run for two days and a night, made \$26,000. Whether or not the fair should be held was a matter for discussion, and the new Committee, which would be formed, would be guided by the result of the discussion. He had received a suggestion from their energetic Vice-President, the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, who said he saw no reason why there should not be a War Bond Drawing. There was plenty of time to boom the scheme. His Excellency, on being approached, kindly sanctioned the proposal and hoped that the scheme would meet with all possible success. A small financial Sub-Committee comprising the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Mr. N. J. Stubb, Mr. Montague Ede, and Mr. L. N. Leefe, had been appointed to take the matter in hand. The winners of the prizes would receive Hongkong War Loan Bonds, and the Bank had promised to let them have as many as they wanted. The Straits letters, and the lottery held here on "Our Day," gave 60 per cent. as prizes; but it had been suggested that in the present instance 75 per cent. should be offered in prizes. It must be remembered that all the money given in prizes was loaned to the Government for war purposes. A war bond drawing, which offered 75 per cent. of the proceeds in prizes would yield more than one offering only 60 per cent. because more people would be attracted to purchase tickets. The suggestion was to give 50 per cent. as first prize; 15 per cent. as second, and the balance would make up a number of small prizes. The details, however, he thought, might best be left in the hands of the new Committee. There were two other questions which, strictly speaking, would not be dealt with at that meeting.

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no notice having been given of them. The new Committee would consider them and no doubt they would be brought up at the proper time. The first one was the desirability of increasing the number of the present Committee. Seven members were hardly enough for a Society of their size in a place of the dimensions of Hongkong. They wanted a Committee as representative as possible. After the war they might have Societies in England sending them men who had served in the Army, and asking the Society to procure jobs for them, etc. He thought the greater the number on the Committee the better they would be able to cope with the work. In his opinion it would be best to increase the number on the Committee to twelve. The Shanghai St. George's Society had eleven members on the Committee. The Hongkong St. George's Society, however, had more members and expected an increase. Why should they not have a bigger Committee? The other question to which he had referred was one which had been discussed last year. He thought that the Society should be affiliated to the Royal St. George's Society in England, which was the parent Society. Mr. Bentley, who had returned from Shanghai, had told him that the Society there had been affiliated, the affiliation fee being a guinea, which included the subscription to a magazine, containing matters of interest pertaining to the Society. He thought that they should have no hesitation in leaving the matter in the hands of the new Committee. (Cheers.)

The Hon. Mr. E. B. Sharp proposed, and Mr. G. S. Archbutt seconded, that the accounts be passed. The motion was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Justice Gompertz proposed that the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak be elected President for the ensuing year.

Mr. Montague Ede seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak proposed, and the Hon. Mr. E. B. Sharp seconded, that Mr. N. J. Stubb be elected Vice-President, and the motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Justice Gompertz, Mr. J. Bentley was unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. Kerr proposed the election of Mr. J. H. Ramsay as Hon. Treasurer, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The election of the Committee was then proceeded with. The President said that he had received intimation from the Hon. Mr. E. B. Sharp and Mr. C. W. Bewick that they would be absent from the Summer and therefore did not desire to stand for re-election on the Committee. Names were then called for by those who desired to stand for election and Colonel Chapman, the Rev. Copley Moyle and the Hon. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe were appointed as scrutineers of the ballot.

The following Committee were elected:—Messrs. H. W. Bird, G. S. Archbutt, E. B. Hancock, L. N. Leefe, W. J. Eldridge, C. Montague Ede, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, as the new President, said that whilst the ballot was being counted he would like to address the meeting. First, he would like to thank them for the high honour they had done him in electing him President of the Society, which had already shown itself a power in the Colony; secondly, he would like to say a word or two concerning how the day was to be celebrated. Of course, it must be left to the committee to deal with the matter, but the meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving suggestions as to how the day should be suitably and honourably celebrated. It was obvious that it must continue on the lines it did last year—that of raising funds in connection with charities for carrying on the war.

The late President had already told them something of the plans for a drawing of war bonds. They would realise from the figures mentioned that it would be no light work, and it therefore required the united energy of every member of the Society to make it a success. He felt sure it would ultimately be. They would probably proceed with a street collection, as last year, and the question of a fair or a bazaar must also be discussed by the Committee. One excellent suggestion had already been received, namely, that there should be something in the nature of a utility bazaar such as had been carried out with such success in Canada. There would be a number of shops, replete with useful articles for sale. The idea was that they must all have something in their possession which they could do without. It might be an article of decoration or a curio which they could present to the Society. It would embody all classes of articles of furniture, and such objects. The bazaar, which would be situated near the fair grounds in a makeshift erected for the purpose. No doubt properly worked, the idea would raise a very large sum of money. Further, it had been suggested, and Mr. Sinclair had already promised, to endeavour to organise a theatrical performance in the theatre, in the evening, which would no doubt be as successful as the one last year. The idea he would like to impress on them all most forcibly was that if the day was to be celebrated with the success that should attend so laudable an object, it must be through their united effort. The magnificent effort of their Scotch friends on Heather Day was one worthy of emulation. They proposed to divide their members immediately after that gathering into various committees, each of which would be entrusted with its own share of the work and by their combined efforts the celebrations would be made the success it should be. The object was so laudable that it would appeal to the Colony in the same way that every other appeal had been received and would meet with ready response and a generous giving. Before he set down he would like to express the thanks of those at that meeting to the retiring President and to the committee for their untiring, unselfish and strong enthusiasm and the untiring energy they had put into the work last year which had made the first St. George's Day of Hongkong such a great success. (Cheers.)

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situated near the fair grounds in a makeshift erected for the purpose. No doubt properly worked, the idea would raise a very large sum of money. Further, it had been suggested, and Mr. Sinclair had already promised, to endeavour to organise a theatrical performance in the theatre, in the evening, which would no doubt be as successful as the one last year. The idea he would like to impress on them all most forcibly was that if the day was to be celebrated with the success that should attend so laudable an object, it must be through their united effort. The magnificent effort of their Scotch friends on Heather Day was one worthy of emulation. They proposed to divide their members immediately after that gathering into various committees, each of which would be entrusted with its own share of the work and by their combined efforts the celebrations would be made the success it should be. The object was so laudable that it would appeal to the Colony in the same way that every other appeal had been received and would meet with ready response and a generous giving. Before he set down he would like to express the thanks of those at that meeting to the retiring President and to the committee for their untiring, unselfish and strong enthusiasm and the untiring energy they had put into the work last year which had made the first St. George's Day of Hongkong such a great success. (Cheers.)

Mr. B. Hancock asked whether it would not be better for members to send in suggestions to the Committee, as it was very difficult to make new suggestions on the spur of the moment. He thought if they went home and thought the matter over the suggestions forthcoming would be more practicable and useful than if they made spontaneous suggestions then.

The Chairman said that the Committee would be very glad to receive such suggestions.

A suggestion was made that ladies should be included on the committees to which the Chairman replied that the ladies did remain service for their last year and the same course would be adopted this year, by including ladies on the sub-committees.

The matter of increasing the Committee from seven members to twelve was put to the vote and unanimously agreed to. The Chairman stated that the necessary steps for the alteration of the rules to enable that to be done would be taken as soon as possible.

After a vote of thanks to Messrs. Archbutt, Montague Ede, and Company, who had been the mainstay of the room last year, which had made the first St. George's Day of Hongkong such a great success. (Cheers.)

